

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-07 IGA-02
OMB-01 /073 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:JDROSENTHAL/FMLC
APPROVED BY EA/VLC:JDROSENTHAL
EA/P:MSMITH

-----192240Z 092965 /14

O 192124Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 115293

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, VN

SUBJECT: TEXT OF DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S REMARKS MAY 19 RE:
US-SRV RELATIONS

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S
SPOKESMAN'S REMARKS AT THE NOON BRIEFING MAY 19 REGARDING
VIETNAM.

BRADSHER (WSTAR) : WHEN YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT THE NIXON-
TO PHAM VAN DON; YOU USED THE WORD "LETTER";

BROWN: "MESSAGE"; DIDN'T CALL IT "LETTER," BUT "MESSAGE."

BRADSHER: BUT THE POINT I WANTED TO MAKE, DO WE KNOW THAT
THERE WAS ANY PIECE OF PAPER CONTAINING MR. NIXON'S SIGNA-
TURE WHICH WAS PHYSICALLY CARRIED FROM HERE TO THERE, OR
WAS THIS SIMPLY A CABLE WHICH DID NOT BEAR A SIGNATURE?

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BROWN: I UNDERSTAND IT WAS IN THE FORM OF AN ELECTRONICALLY
TRANSMITTED MESSAGE, THE WAY MOST COMMUNICATIONS ARE TRANS-
MITTED.

MARDER: YOU'RE SIMPLY RELEASING THIS, YOU'RE NOT MAKING
ANY COMMENT ABOUT IT?

BROWN: WELL, I THINK IT'S REALLY NOTHING NEW. MOST OF THE SUBSTANCE HAS BASICALLY BEEN DISCUSSED IN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND HAS BEEN FAIRLY WELL KNOWN.

MARDER: THE TEXT OF THE LETTER, HOWEVER, DOES CARRY SOME NEW IMPLICATIONS WHICH WERE NOT EVIDENT BEFORE FROM THE SUBSTANCE WHICH WAS CONVEYED IN THE FORM IN WHICH IT WAS CONVEYED. FOR EXAMPLE, IT STATES THAT "THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION OF NORTH VIETNAM WITHOUT ANY POLITICAL CONDITIONS." ALSO, A PREVIOUS POINT HAD BEEN THAT -- THIS WAS VERY STRONGLY EMPHASIZED -- THAT THIS WAS ENTIRELY SUBJECT TO THE CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS OF WHETHER OR NOT FUNDS AT ANYWHERE NEAR THIS AMOUNT MIGHT BE AUTHORIZED OR NOT. ONE SEES FROM THE LETTER THAT IN FACT ONLY APPEARS AS AN ADDENDUM, DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE LETTER AT ALL. GOT ANY COMMENT?

BROWN: NO, I DON'T; IT'S THERE. I THINK IT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

MARDER: THERE'S ALSO NO REFERENCE IN THIS MESSAGE TO IT BEING DEPENDENT UPON OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT.

BROWN: I'M AFRAID I CAN'T ENLIGHTEN YOU ON ANY INTERPRETATION OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS LETTER. I THINK MOST OF THE POINTS ARE FAIRLY WELL KNOWN.
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FREED (AP): WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO RELEASE THE LETTER TODAY?

BROWN: JUST FOR THE REASON STATED ON OUR LITTLE COVER ANNOUNCEMENT HERE. I CAN'T ADD TO THAT.

FREED: NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FACT LESTER WOLFF WAS GOING TO RELEASE IT AT 11:00 O'CLOCK?

BROWN: WELL, NO, THERE WAS CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST, QUITE OBVIOUSLY, VERY DEFINITELY.

QUESTION: DID IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE FROST INTERVIEW ON TV TONIGHT?

BROWN: NOT THAT I KNOW OF. THAT'S SOMETHING THE FORMER PRESIDENT HAS WHIPPED UP; SO FAR AS I'M CONCERNED THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

FREED: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ON THE TALKS WITH HANOI NOW?

BROWN: ABOUT THE ONLY THING I COULD OFFER IS THAT WE'RE STILL WORKING ON AGREEING ON A DATE FOR THE NEXT ROUND.

FREED: THEN, IT WAS TRUE, THAT IT WAS REASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT THE NEXT ROUND WOULD HAVE STARTED BY NOW?

BROWN: YES. WELL, WE SAID WITHIN TWO WEEKS -- IT'S GOING TO BE SOMEWHAT LONGER; BUT I'M TOLD THESE ARE PRIMARILY ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES AND THAT WE HOPE TO ESTABLISH A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE VERY SOON.

FREED: CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHAT "ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES" AMOUNT TO? SINCE THEY'RE NOT SUBSTANTIVE IT SHOULDN'T BE...

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BROWN: WELL, ANYTIME YOU SET UP A TALK OF THIS SORT THERE ARE COMMITMENTS ON BOTH SIDES TO DO OTHER THINGS SIMULTANEOUSLY. IT'S A QUESTION OF WORKING ABOUT A DATE IN PARIS THAT IS MUTUALLY CONVENIENT, AND WE'RE TALKING TO THEM, TRYING TO DO THAT.

QUESTION: IS THE PROPOSAL MADE BY PRES NIXON IN HIS LETTER STILL VALID? SO FAR AS THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS CONCERNED?

BROWN: I DON'T THINK I'LL OFFER ANY ELUCIDATION ON THE SUBJECT OF THIS LETTER WE'VE MADE PUBLIC TODAY. I THINK OUR VIEW ON THE VIETNAM QUESTION HAS BEEN STATED QUITE CLEARLY BY THE PRESIDENT AND BY THE SECRETARY, AND I DON'T THINK I'LL ADD ANYTHING TO THAT.

QUESTION: YOU'RE SURE THAT WE WILL NOT PAY ANY REPARATIONS?

BROWN: I'LL JUST STAND ON WHAT IS ON PUBLIC RECORD ON THAT SCORE BY THE PRESIDENT AND BY THE SECRETARY. (END TEXT).

2. TEXT OF DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT RELEASING MESSAGE AND REFERRED TO IN ANSWERS ABOVE IS AS FOLLOWS:

(BEGIN TEXT) THE DEPARTMENT IS RELASING TODAY THE TEXT OF A MESSAGE DATED FEBRUARY 1, 1973 FROM FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE FORMER DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, MR. PHAM VAN DONG. THE EXISTENCE AND SUBSTANCE OF THIS DOCUMENT HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE PUB-

LIC, INCLUDING PUBLIC REFERENCES BY THE RECIPIENT. ITS
AUTHOR HAS INDICATED NO OBJECTION TO ITS RELEASE. IN
LIGHT OF ALL PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WE HAVE DETERMINED

THAT THE MESSAGE IS NO LONGER DEEMED SENSITIVE AND IT HAS
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BEEN DECLASSIFIED. (END TEXT).
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, DOCUMENTS, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, PRESS CONFERENCES, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE115293
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JDROSENTHAL/FMLC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770179-0442
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770538/aaaabgyi.tel
Line Count: 183
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cecbcc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2447013
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TEXT OF DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S REMARKS MAY 19 RE: US-SRV RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, US, VN
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cecbcc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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